

Hoosiers like HIP

Bedford Times Mail June 29, 2014

To the editor:

Some state-run health care exchanges, the brainchild of the Affordable Care Act, have gotten off to a rocky start, with the federal government having to pick up the pieces. Indiana's decision to try to expand the already-existing Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), in lieu of an exchange, seems wiser every day. Last month, Governor Pence outlined HIP 2.0, which would provide two alternatives to traditional Medicaid: a high deductible health plan along with a power account (similar to a health savings account). The Indiana Chamber has reviewed HIP 2.0 and urged the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to give it the needed approval.

HIP provides reimbursement to health-care providers at Medicare rates. Otherwise, health-care providers recover such losses by increasing prices for private sector employers and their employees through cost shifting. Any attempt to lessen that cost shift is most welcome.

HIP has been well received by a diverse group of Hoosier constituents and has notable support from both sides of the political aisle. We hope CMS fully considers Indiana's unique brand of addressing the needs of our uninsured population and recognizes HIP 2.0 as the best option for Indiana to expand health care coverage.

Mike Ripley,
Indianapolis

The above writer is vice president of Health Care Policy, Indiana Chamber of Commerce.